

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 31 public bills, H.R. 1052–1082; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 48–50, and H. Res. 97–98, were introduced. **Pages H1016–18**

Reports Filed: One report was filed as follows:

H.R. 968, to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to permit a waiver of the prohibition of offering nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs in certain nursing facilities, amended (H. Rept. 105–23 Part I).

Page H1016

Disapprove Presidential Certification Regarding Mexico: By a recorded vote of 251 ayes to 175 noes, Roll No. 48, the House passed H.J. Res. 58, disapproving the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during fiscal year 1997.

Pages H963–89

Rejected the Hamilton motion to recommit the joint resolution to the Committee on International Relations.

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Agreed to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as amended by the Hastert amendment (agreed to by a recorded vote of 229 ayes to 195 noes, Roll No. 47).

Pages H982–89

Agreed to the Hastert amendment, as modified, to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute that defers disapproval of the Presidential certification relating to Mexico if, within 90 days of enactment, the President reports to Congress that he has obtained assurances of progress with the government of Mexico to authorize additional DEA or other U.S. law enforcement agents for narcotics control operations in Mexico, authorize U.S. law enforcement agents to carry firearms in Mexico for self-defense, take measures to find and eliminate law enforcement corruption in Mexico, commit to extradite Mexican nationals wanted by the U.S. Government for drug trafficking, secure necessary aircraft overflight and refueling rights including radar coverage to monitor drug traffickers, and proceed toward a permanent maritime agreement to allow U.S. Coast Guard and other vessels to halt traffickers pursued into Mexican waters; and further establishes a High Level Commission on International Narcotics Control to review the annual certification process relating to international narcotics control and requires an interim report within six months of enactment (agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 205 nays with 9 voting "present," Roll No. 46). **Pages H983–88**

Earlier, agreed by unanimous consent, to modify the Hastert amendment, as specified in House Report 105–20 accompanying the rule, by striking references to financial markets from the duties and reports of the High Level Commission on International Narcotics Control.

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H. Res. 95, the rule under which the joint resolution was considered, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 45.

Pages H954–63

Paperwork Elimination Act: By a yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas, Roll No. 50, the House passed H.R. 852, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to minimize the burden of Federal paperwork demands upon small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State and local governments, and other persons through the sponsorship and use of alternative information technologies.

Pages H996–H1000

H. Res. 88, the rule under which the bill was considered, was agreed to by a voice vote. Earlier, agreed to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 49.

Pages H989–96

Legislative Program: The Chairman of the Rules Committee announced the Legislative Program for the week of March 17.

Pages H1000–01

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 17; and agreed that when the House adjourns on Monday, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 for morning hour debate.

Page H1001

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday March 19.

Page H1002

Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Kolbe to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group as Chairman.

Page H1002

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Houghton to the Canada-Interparliamentary Group as Chairman.

Page H1002

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Smith of New Jersey as Co-Chairman, and Representatives Porter, Wolf, Salmon, and Christensen as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Page H1002

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Jeffrey S. Blair of Atlanta, Georgia to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics on the part of the House.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H962–63, H988, H988–89, H990, H995, and H999–H1000. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Rural Development. Testimony was heard from Jill Long Thompson, Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary held a hearing on the Supreme Court, the Architect of the Capitol, the FCC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Testimony was heard from the following Justices of the Supreme Court: Anthony M. Kennedy; and David H. Souter; Alan M. Hantman, Architect of the Capitol; Reed E. Hunt, Chairman, FCC; and Larry Irving, Assistant Secretary, Communications and Information, Department of Commerce.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Energy Resources. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy; Martha A. Krebes, Director, Energy Research; Christine Ervin, Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Terry R. Lash, Assistant Secretary, Nuclear Energy.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs held a hearing on Security Assistance. Testimony was

heard from Walter B. Slocombe, Under Secretary, Policy, Department of Defense; and Thomas McNamara, Assistant Secretary, Political-Military Affairs, Department of State.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the National Endowments for the Arts and the National Endowments for the Humanities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities; Jane Alexander, Chairman, National Endowments for the Arts; and Sheldon Hackney, Chairman, National Endowments for the Humanities.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on Educational Research and Improvements, the Office of Inspector General, on Howard University and Special Institutions for the Disabled. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Education: Marshall S. Smith, Under Secretary; Thomas R. Bloom, Inspector General; H. Patrick Swygert, President, Howard University; Judith E. Heumann, Assistant Secretary, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Tuck Tinsley, III, President, American Printing House for the Blind; I. King Jordan, President, Gallaudet University; Robert R. Davila, Vice President and Wendell S. Thompson, Associate Director, both with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology; Ramon F. Rodriguez, Liaison Officer, Office of Special Institutions, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Thomas P. Skelly, Director, Budget Service, Office of the Under Secretary; and Carol Cichowski, Director, Division of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Research Analysis, Budget Service, Office of the Under Secretary.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction continued appropriations hearings. Testimony was heard from Members of Congress and public witnesses.

NATIONAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing on Fiscal Year 1998 Army Budget Overview and on Army Acquisition Programs. Testimony was heard from the Department of the Army: Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary; Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, USA, Chief of Staff; Gilbert